

Lakeside News

February-May 2016 Edition

From the Mayor's Desk,

Dear Fellow Citizens,

I am pleased to announce the Town of Hickory Creek has received a successful audit by Carl Deaton of Hankins, Eastup, Deaton, Tonn and Seay. The town's financial statements of governmental activities and all accounting activity are audited annually to ensure compliance with standards contained in the Governmental Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The following statements can be found in the 2015 Town of Hickory Creek Financial Statements and Accountant's Opinion:



- The assets and deferred outflows of resources of the Town of Hickory Creek exceeded its liabilities and deferred inflows at September 30, 2015 by \$7,783,244. Of this amount, \$1,932,124 may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- The town's total net position increased by \$738,916 during the fiscal year from the results of current year operations. However total net position also decreased by \$433,203 due to new standards that required recording of the Town's Texas Municipal Retirement Systems' net pension liability.
- As of September 30, 2015, the Town of Hickory Creek's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$7,646,285, an increase of \$4,632,146 in comparison with the beginning of the period. Approximately 28 percent of this total amount, \$2,148,360, is available for spending at the government's discretion (unassigned fund balance).
- At the end of the current period, unassigned fund balance for the general fund was \$2,148,360 or 69.8 percent of total general fund expenditures.

The town council adopted a balanced budget for 2015-2016 and approved a tax rate of 0.401367 per \$100 of assessed value. Total property values were \$347,620,645 in 2014 and rose to \$392,362,715 in 2015. The increase in property values facilitated the Town Council's ability to issue certificates of obligations in the amount of \$4,000,000 for street improvements, drainage improvements and sidewalks while maintaining the previous year's tax rate.

The town recently completed the reconstruction of Harbor Lane, and is in the process of reconstructing Hickory Creek Road. In both cases, asphalt roads were replaced with concrete, increasing the lifespan of the roads, and guard rails with safety ends are being added near drainage areas.

Reconstruction will begin on multiple streets, including: Main Street (with funds provided by Denton County), Royal Oaks, and Hickory Hills. These main feeder roads will be reconstructed with concrete surfaces. Additional rejuvenation of road surfaces in Lakewood Gardens and Hickory Hills will also take place.

The council recently met in an extended work session for the purpose of discussing various town projects which will include improvements in our parks and the possible acquisition of more park land. Improved street lighting at major intersections, the addition of security cameras in our parks, and new restroom facilities in our Corps parks were also listed as high priorities.

The new year is off to a great start, and our Council is working together to ensure the future of Hickory Creek. We look forward to all that 2016 will bring to our community!

Best Regards, Mayor Lynn Clark

Spring Cleaning Tips

Spring weather can make a mess of your yard and our local waterways. Here are a few tips for getting your landscape back in shape and keeping local lakes, streams and rivers clean:

Avoid putting any permanent structures in flood prone areas of your yard and try to keep those areas clear during the spring. Melting snow and spring storms can create standing water and voluntary streams that wash loose dirt and debris out of your yard and into creeks and roadside ditches where they are carried downstream to local waterways.

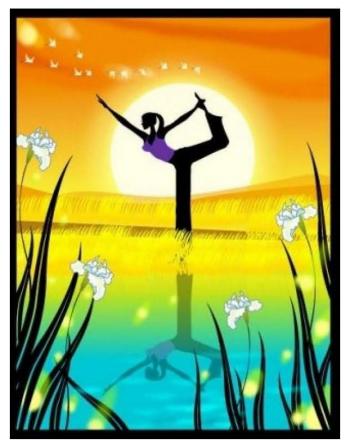
Keep grass clippings, leaves and debris out of local streams and wetlands. Compost your yard waste or dispose of it in your street-side pick-up. Yard waste that ends up in wetlands or streams contributes to algal growth in the summer, making the water green and smelly.

Stabilize your soil and increase infiltration by planting deep-rooted native plants or trees. The roots of turf grass extend only two to three inches into the soil, giving it little ability to hang on when the water flows. Native flowers and grasses, on the other hand, can have root systems four to twelve feet deep! These deep roots anchor the plants and keep soil from washing away. They also increase the amount of water the soil can absorb, meaning that more water sinks in to recharge groundwater aquifers and less ends up in the storm drain.

If you live along a stream or wetland, it is important to maintain a healthy un-mowed buffer along your shoreline. A shoreline or stream bank planted in trees and native plants will hold the soil steady when it rains. Buffers also catch and filter many of the pollutants found in melting snow and storm water runoff.



The Town of Hickory Creek Parks & Recreation Department is proudly offering FREE COMMUNIITY YOGA!



When: The first Saturday of each month beginning April 2016

Where: Sycamore Bend Park (under the pavilion)

Time: 9-10am

Who: Open to all levels! (Ages 14+ please)

Please bring your yoga mat and/or towel, water bottle and light jacket. Remember to display your parking pass or pay the admission fee upon entering the park. We will be practicing outdoors so dress accordingly. Classes will be held rain or shine, but not if it is lightening. Please check the Town of Hickory Creek website for any cancellations. Prior to beginning each class, all participants must sign a waiver upon arrival. Questions? Email Melissa_Hentschel@yahoo.com

Chief's Corner January 2016

The New Year is a time of reflection and a promise of a new beginning. The Hickory Creek Police Department would like to thank you for an amazing 2015 and encourage positive life changing behaviors in hopes of a safe and healthy 2016!

Distracted driving is increasingly becoming an epidemic threatening the lives of many. We encourage you to educate young drivers with safe and proper habits while behind the wheel. The National Safety Council has compiled the following statistics:

- Approximately 1.6 million crashes each year involve drivers using cell phones and texting.
- Talking on a cell phone while driving make young driver's reaction time as slow as a 70 year old. 56% of teenagers admit to talking on their cell phones behind the wheel, while 13% admit to texting while driving.
- 40% of all American teens admit to being in a car with someone texting behind the wheel. 48% of young Americans from the ages of 12-17 admit they have been with someone who was texting and driving. Teen drivers are four times more likely than adults to get into a car crash or near crash event directly related to talking on a cell phone.

With the beginning of the New Year, also begins the season of colder weather. Heaters and fire places are used more frequent, raising the chances of fire or carbon monoxide poisoning. To avoid such an occurrence, we encourage you to test detectors monthly and change batteries every 6 months. In nearly two-thirds of all fatal fires, there were no smoke alarms or working smoke alarms.

Let this be a year of safety and not be a statistic! As always, we encourage you to come by the Hickory Creek Police Department and visit with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Never leave your pets alone in a parked car, it's the law!

Sec. 2.06.004 Improper confinement

It is unlawful for any person to intentionally or knowingly confine or allow to be confined any animal under such conditions or for such a period of time as many endanger the health or well-being of the animal due to heat, lack of food or water or any other circumstance which causes suffering, disability or death of the animal. (1999 Code, sec. 2.1203)

Hickory Creek Animal Services

HICKORY CREEK SHELTER HOURS M-F 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Sat. & Sun. Closed 940-465-7444

Community Reminders

Make sure you check the status of the parks before you go . You can see if they are open or closed by visiting our website at hickorycreek-tx.gov



Town of Hickory Creek
General Election
is scheduled for
May 7, 2016.
Candidate packets are
available at Town Hall.

Register your cat or dog at Town Hall. Just bring in a copy of their rabies certificate.

There is no charge for registration.



December 31st of each year. To avoid citations, check the date on your pass then come by Town Hall or visit one of the park kiosks to renew your Boat or Day Use pass.



This is not always the most effective deterrent to someone wanting to burglarize your property.

Hickory Creek requires all alarm systems, whether residential or commercial, to be registered with the town annually in January. Any system found without a permit is subject to possible citations. Fees may also be assessed for repeated false alarm calls from an alarm system. Applications are available on the Permits page of the town website or come by the Building Department at Town Hall.

For more information contact 940/497-2528.



Follow us on Twitter @HickoryCreekTX

"Buy Local Campaign"

Please remember our businesses that are affected by construction. Let's support our local establishments and our local economy by keeping our tax dollars at home!

Tree Pruning: The Basics

The goal of pruning is to produce strong, healthy and attractive trees. By understanding why, when and how to prune this objective can be achieved.

Why prune trees? The main reasons for pruning trees include safety, health and aesthetics. Safety pruning involves removing branches that could fall and cause injury or property damage, trimming branches that Interfere with lines of sight on streets or driveways, and removing branches that grow into utility lines. Pruning for health involves removing dead, diseased or insect-infected wood, encouraging a tree wound to heal. Pruning for aesthetics involves enhancing the natural form and character of the tree, or to stimulate flower/fruit production.

When to prune trees? Best time to prune trees is when they are young. Hardwoods and shrubs should be trimmed during the dormant season. Trees and shrubs that flower in early spring (i.e. redbud, dogwood, Mexican plum, etc.) should be pruned immediately after flowering. Trees and shrubs that flower in the summer or fall should always be during the dormant season (anytime after leaf drops, prior to new buds forming). Dead limbs may be pruned anytime.

How to prune trees? Obtaining proper tools for pruning is important. In general, the smaller the branch is when pruned, the sooner the wound created by pruning will heal. Never remove more than 1/4 of the living canopy in any year. Never raise the canopy by more than 1/3 when pruning. Take the time to learn about the different types of cuts that can be made when pruning may lead to smaller wounds, stronger tree structure and a healthier, attractive tree.

A professional Arborist can be hired to help you safely prune your trees and shrubs.

Source: USDA Forest Service: How to Prune Trees

Protect yourself from West Nile virus

Use insect repellent* when you go outside.

Drain standing water regularly. Mosquitoes breed in water that collects in buckets, tires, gutters, and saucers.

Wear long sleeves and pants at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

Keep screens on doors and windows in good condition to keep mosquitoes out.

* Approved repellents contain DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus



www.txwestnile.org





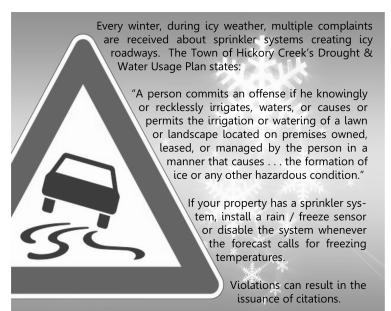


For more information go to www.35express.org



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YOUR BOAT.



Texas "Driver Responsibility Program"

The Driver Responsibility Program establishes a system that authorizes the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to assess surcharges to an individual based on certain traffic offenses that have occurred on or after September 1, 2003. Individuals are notified by mail each time a surcharge is added to their driver record. Surcharges are in addition to other fees and do not replace a suspension, revocation, denial, disqualification or cancellation resulting from the same conviction.

Surcharges are assessed in two ways:

Point System: Points are assessed for traffic convictions. Once the conviction has been added to the driver record, points are assigned and remain on the driver record for three years from the date of conviction.

Individuals who have six or more points on their driver record are assessed a surcharge every year they maintain six or more points.

Surcharges amounts are:

\$100 for the first six points on a driver record / \$25 for each additional point after six.

Conviction Based: Individuals who receive a conviction for one of the offenses listed in the chart below will pay an annual surcharge for three years from the date of conviction. Points are not assessed for these offenses because the surcharge is automatic upon conviction.

Type of Conviction	Surcharge*
1st Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	\$1,000
Subsequent DWI	\$1,500
DWI with Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.16 or More	\$2,000
No Insurance	\$250
Driving While License Invalid (DWLI) Driver license is canceled, suspended, denied or revoked	\$250
No Driver License Includes Commercial driver license, an expired license or endorsement violation	\$100
*The surcharge amount is assessed every year for three ye	ears.

Notice of surcharges are mailed to the address on your driver license or identification card. If you have moved and have not changed the address on your license, the DPS will suspend your driver license if you have surcharges due. The Department of Public Safety has suspended more than 1.4 million driver license since 2003. Many people are driving and do not even know their driver license is suspended.

Check license eligibility: https://txapps.texas.gov/txapp/txdps/dleligibility

For more information on Surcharges go to: txsurchargeonline.com or call 800-688-6882

If you do not owe surcharges, you may be able to change the address on your driver license or renew an active driver license at: https://www.txdps.state.tx.us



Wishing you Safe Driving, Hickory Creek Municipal Court



UPDATED! HICKORY CREEK PARKING REGULATIONS

At it's January meeting the Town Council voted to update the town's parking ordinance. Some of the main things to remember about the parking ordinance are:

- 48 hours without being moved. Formally the time was 72 hours.
- Non-motorized vehicles may not be parked on hours) if they are being loaded. They may not be simply stored in the street.
- erate on a public street may not be parked or stored in the street. This includes cars without = Vehicles may not be used as signs. This does not current registration stickers, plates, missing parts, etc.
- Do not park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, 20 feet of an intersection, 30 feet of a stop sign, or any other traffic sign or signal, and 50 feet of a railway crossing arm.

- ⇒ Vehicles may only be parked on the street for ⇒ Sporting equipment (basketball goals, ramps, etc.), containers, or any other property, except vehicles, cannot be put in or next to the street, sidewalk, or any other public right of way.
 - the street for longer than 24 hours (formerly 48 = Except in a few specific instances, you may not park any vehicle on dirt or grass or on a vacant lot or drive across a curb.
- ⇒ Any vehicle that cannot physically or legally op- ⇒ Vehicles being advertised for sale may not be stored in the street.
 - include regularly used work vehicles displaying company information.
 - Large commercial vehicles may not be parked or stored on any street unless they are actively unloading and not blocking traffic.

The term *vehicle* includes motorized and non-motorized means of transporting people or items on a street, waterway or airway such as cars, trucks, motorcycles, trailers, RVs, boats, campers, semis etc. If you have any questions contact 940/497-2528 ext. 230 or a violation may be reported at www.hickorycreek-tx.gov, Report a Code Violation.



Molly Moo's Pet Sitting Service

940-594-2376

Nicki Meskill Owner References upon request

Celebrating 10 Yrs. of

"The purity of a person's heart can be quickly measured by the way they treat their animals" - Anonymous

> Now Offering: Boarding & Doggy Day Care at Molly's Moo's Ranch -Pick Up & Drop Off Available - Call For Details

- Daily, Weekly, and Monthly Plan Options
 - ✓ Includes walk/run/TLC and playtime/waste bag & pick up, feed and water after walk
 - Fuel surcharges may apply for specified areas
 - ✓ Premium charges for certain Holidays
- Pricing
 - Walking services start at \$15 for 30 minutes
 - ✓ In Home Care starts at \$25 per visit

Call now to make your pet's reservation!

Long Term Pet Sitting Available for Vacation and Business Trips



CITIZENS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

LAKE CITIES FIRE DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY 23, 2015 TUESDAYS FROM 7-9 (WILL SKIP SPRING BREAK)

LAKE CITIES FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION 1 275 Main Street, Lake Dallas, 75065

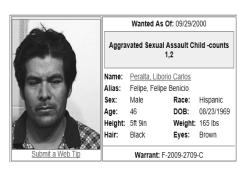
- ➤ The academy is 9 weeks and consist of (10 Topics) starting February 23.
- It will give you a basic understanding how to be better prepared in case of emergencies.
- Learn about the role of responders and local capabilities and what threats most likely affect our area.
- Sign up Roster: http://ow.lv/XoUit

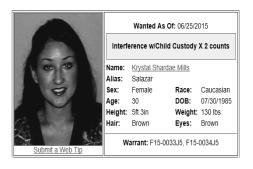
DENTON COUNTY STOPPESS

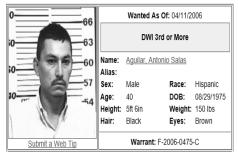
1-800-388-TIPS Hotline

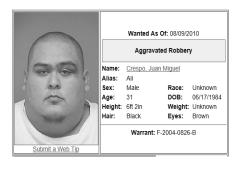
Web Tips

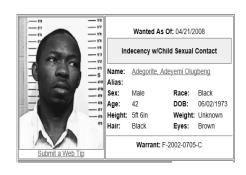
dentoncountycrimestoppers.com

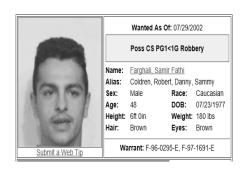














Online Solicitation Minor Under 14 YOA; Sex Offenders Duty to Register w/Previous Conviction

 Name:
 Bell. Mathew Blake

 Alias:
 Bell. Matt

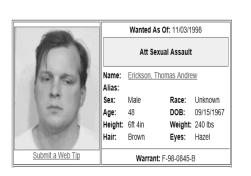
 Sex:
 Male
 Race:
 Caucasian

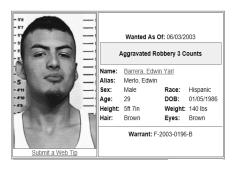
 Age:
 32
 DOB:
 12/11/1982

 Height:
 5ft 6in
 Weight:
 110 lbs

 Hair:
 Brown
 Eyes:
 Hazel

nformation leading to the an arrest is eligible for a cash reward up to \$ 1,000 Warrant: F-2006-2292-D, JF15-090J1







Wanted As Of: 08/13/2009

Engaged In Organized Criminal Activity

Name: Esser, Christopher Timothy
Alias:

 Alias:
 Race:
 Caucasian

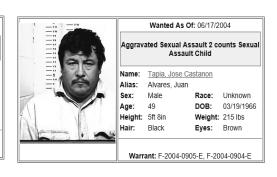
 Sex:
 Male
 Race:
 Caucasian

 Age:
 31
 DOB:
 09/27/1984

 Height:
 6ft 1in
 Weight:
 170 lbs

 Hair:
 Brown
 Eyes:
 Hazel

Warrant: F-2009-0516-D





Town of Hickory Creek 1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue Hickory Creek, Texas 75065 940-497-2528

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We're on the Web! www.hickorycreek-tx.gov

Follow us on Twitter @HickoryCreekTX

Visit Your Town Hall

Parks & Recreation Board—1st Monday @7PM
Planning &Zoning Commission—1st Wednesday @7PM
Town Council—3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 PM
Economic Development Corporation—4th Thursday @7PM
www.hickorycreekEDC.com



Police Department 1075 Ronald Reagan Avenue 940-497-3520 Police/Fire Emergency 911 Non-emergency (940)349-1600

Hickory Creek Animal Services 970 Main Street (940)349-1600

Hickory Creek Animal Shelter & Adoption Center 970 Main Street (940)465-7444